

9501192

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Grossnickle Farm (tenant farm) Survey Number: F-4-109

Project: Replace Harmony Road Bridge Agency: FHWA/Frederick County

Site visit by MHT Staff: no  yes Name Elizabeth Hannold Date 2/17/95

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the available information, the Grossnickle Farm (tenant farm) appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C, along with the adjacent Grossnickle Farm (main farm) property. The tenant farm, located on the east side of Harmony Road, above the Little Catoctin Creek just north of I-70, includes a late 19th century frame house, late 19th century frame stable, frame out-kitchen and frame shed. Facing the tenant farm, on the west side of Little Catoctin Creek lies the Grossnickle Farm main farm complex which includes a mid 19th century brick house, mid 19th century frame forebay bank barn, a c. 1920s rock-faced concrete block dairy and milk house, stone out-kitchen, spring house and various sheds. The two properties are visually connected, sharing a small valley which is defined by topography and enclosed by two major roads. In addition, they are linked historically by common ownership. The Grossnickle Farm complex is significant as a well-preserved rural complex which retains the full compliment of domestic and agricultural buildings and which clearly expresses the main farm-tenant farm relationship. The modest, three-bay, frame tenant house contrasts with the substantial, eight-bay, brick house of the main farm. While the tenant farm would not be individually eligible, the tenant and main farm together are significant. The main farm house, with its recessed double porch along part of the front elevation is an important regional type from the c. 1840-1870 period. The agricultural buildings reflect the process of change over time in farming in this area, from general crop farming to a concentration on dairy farming in the early 20th century. The property appears to retain a high level of integrity.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Inventory forms F- and F-

Prepared by: Paula S. Reed

Elizabeth Hannold Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services 7/7/95 Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
Orlando Fabian Reviewer, NR program July 12, 1995. Date

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic--single dwelling, Domestic--secondary structure, Agriculture--processing, Agriculture--storage, Agriculture--field, Agriculture--animal facility, Agriculture--outbuilding

Known Design Source: none

## Capsule Summary

F-4-109

Grossnickle Farm, Tenant House, G.W. Summers Farm, Oakland Mills  
east side Harmony Road, south side Little Catoctin Creek  
Middletown, MD

1875-1900

This complex consists of a frame two story, three bay house covered with asbestos shingle siding, a frame stable, a frame shed and a summer kitchen. The buildings are located on the east side of Harmony Road where it curves around the complex and proceeds toward Little Catoctin Creek which it crosses about ¼ mile north of these buildings. The buildings are modest in size and elaboration and appear to date from the late 19th century. The house faces north, toward the site of a mill which once stood along Little Catoctin Creek. The complex does not appear on the 1858 Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County, or the 1873 C.O. Titus Atlas of Frederick County.

This complex is a modest rural vernacular group dating from the late 19th century. As a unit the complex represents a small farmstead that displays rural vernacular traditions late in the 19th century. It is associated with the Oakland Mill complex which included the mill, now gone and the larger farmstead across Harmony Road.

The farmstead is representative of late 19th century rural complexes in Frederick County. Taken as part of the larger Val Creek Farm complex or earlier Oakland Mill complex, this secondary house and associated outbuildings complete the scene of a significant 19th century agricultural grouping in Frederick County.

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Survey No. F-4-109

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic **Grossnickle Farm, Tenant House, G.W. Summers Farm, Oakland Mills**  
and/or common **Val Creek Farm**

## 2. Location

street & number **east side Harmony Road, south side Little Catoctin Creek**  not for publication  
city, town **Middletown**  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district **6**  
state **Maryland** county **Frederick**

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district)	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name **Mr. James P. Grossnickle**  
street & number **9120 Harmony Road** telephone no.: \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town **Middletown** state and zip code **Maryland 21769**

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **Frederick County Courthouse** Liber **482**  
street & number **West Patrick Street** Folio **184**  
city, town **Frederick** state **Maryland**

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title **N/A**  
date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

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### Condition

excellent     deteriorated  
 good         ruins  
 fair          unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

This complex consists of a frame two story, three bay house covered with asbestos shingle siding, a frame stable, a frame shed and a summer kitchen. The buildings are located on the east side of Harmony Road where it curves around the complex and proceeds toward Little Catoctin Creek which it crosses about ¼ mile north of these buildings. The buildings are modest in size and elaboration and appear to date from the late 19th century. The house faces north, toward the site of a mill which once stood along Little Catoctin Creek. The complex does not appear on the 1858 Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County, or the 1873 C.O. Titus Atlas of Frederick County.

### General Description

The house appears to be a light frame structure. It rests on high stone foundations. Windows have six over six light sash and the entrance is in the central bay of the front elevation. A shed-roofed porch extends across the front. Chimneys are located inside the end walls. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal.

Placed immediately adjacent to Harmony Road's east edge is a small frame stable. It has a recessed forebay. It, like the house, probably dates from the late 19th century. Southwest of the house is a frame out-kitchen. A frame shed is located between the house and stable.

The complex is located near the base of a slope. This slope and another opposing one on the opposite side of Little Catoctin Creek, form a narrow stream valley and makes the area appear secluded.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)	
<b>Specific dates</b>	1875-1900	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	unknown		
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or					
Applicable Exceptions:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

This complex is a modest rural vernacular group dating from the late 19th century. As a unit the complex represents a small farmstead that displays rural vernacular traditions late in the 19th century. It is associated with the Oakland Mill complex which included the mill, now gone and the larger farmstead across Harmony Road.

### Historic Context

Frederick County and central Maryland in general were settled during the second half of the 18th century although there were habitations in the region as early as the 1730s. Although land was initially held by English entrepreneurs from eastern Maryland, the majority of settlers who actually lived in Frederick County were Germans who had migrated south from Pennsylvania. The area developed into a prime agricultural region with emphasis on the production of small grains. With grain farming dominating, related industries and transportation networks soon developed. Grist and flour milling was prevalent, as was distilling. Central Maryland along with south central Pennsylvania grew in importance as an agricultural region. In Maryland, Frederick and adjoining Washington County led the state in wheat and corn production throughout most of the 19th century. The allure of the agricultural prosperity of central Maryland influenced Robert E. Lee's plan to invade Maryland in the late summer of 1862. The greater region was the nation's bread basket until large scale grain production in the midwest overtook local production in the later 19th century.

### Resource History

This small farmstead does not appear on either the 1858 or 1873 maps of Frederick County. According to the 1873 Frederick County Atlas map, this land, on both sides of Little Catocin Creek was owned by G.W. Summers, who also owned the mill, recorded as Oakland Mill, near this house. This farmstead was part of the larger farm and mill complex owned by G.W. Summers. Today it remains as part of the same property as the farmstead identified on the opposite side of the creek and road, known as Val Creek Farm. It was probably built during ownership of George W. Summers or his son Joshua which was from 1861 to 1909. Another possibility is that this parcel is the "house and lot," part of the mill property, purchased by George W. Summers from Charlotte Kinna in 1866 (Liber JWLC 4, folio 533). The fact that it is not depicted on the 1873 map is not a critical factor since this

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DOE  yes  no

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building is a secondary structure to the mill and main farm complex.

## Resource Evaluation

The farmstead is representative of late 19th century rural complexes in Frederick County. Taken as part of the larger Val Creek Farm complex or earlier Oakland Mill complex, this secondary house and associated outbuildings complete the scene of a significant 19th century agricultural grouping in Frederick County.

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## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont (Frederick County)

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architectural/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Agricultural/Subsistence/animal facility

Known Design Source: Vernacular



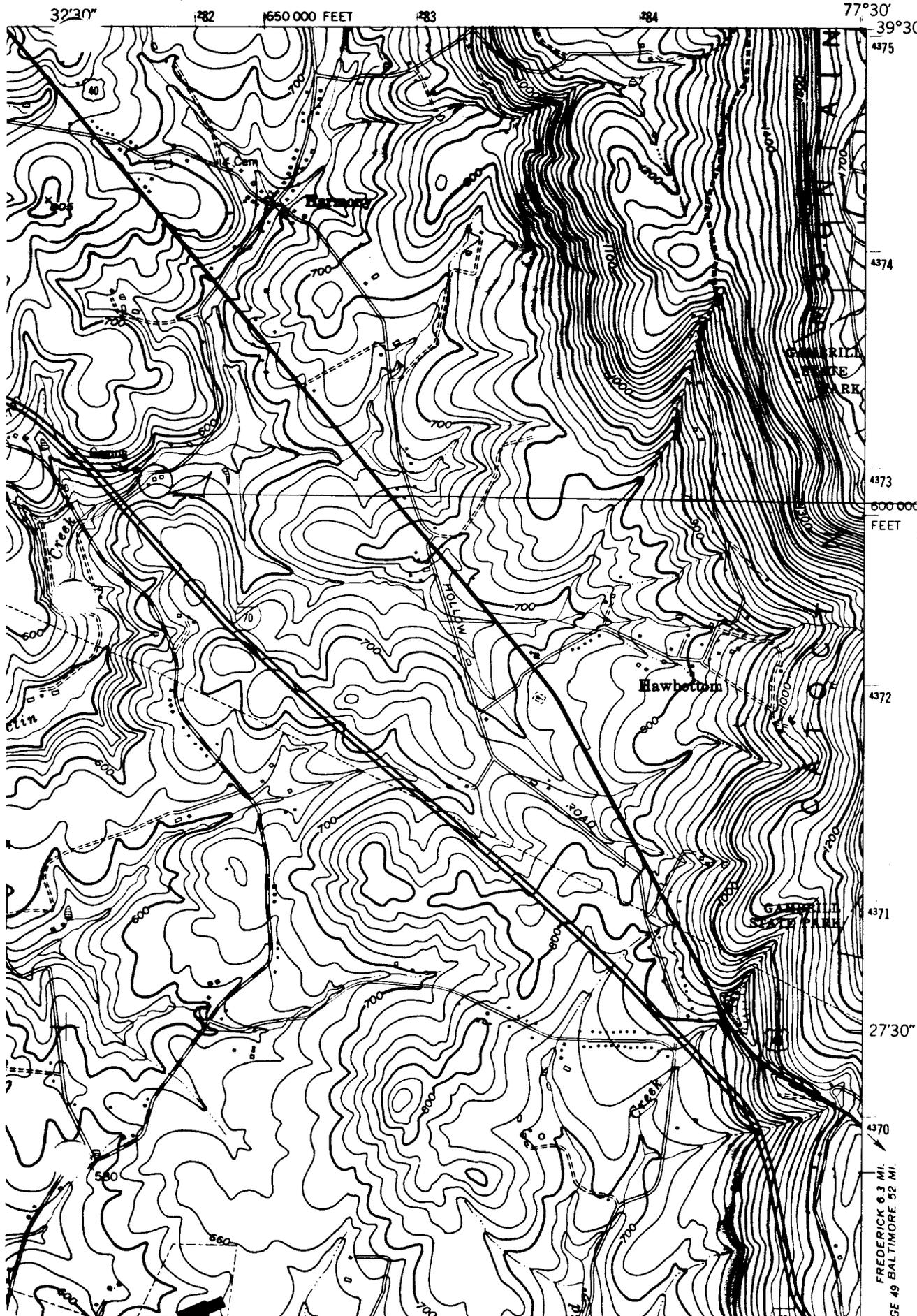
F-4-108  
F-4-109  
MIDDLETOWN VICINITY  
FREDERICK CO. MD.



Site Plan  
Harmony Rd Bridge Project Area  
Frederick Co., MD  
Not to Scale

MIDDLETOWN QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5563 III SW  
(CATOCTIN FURNACE)



F-4-109  
GROSSNICKLE FARM  
TENANT HOUSE  
OAKLAND MILLS  
E/S HARMONY RD  
N/S I-70  
MIDDLETOWN VIC  
FREDERICK CO

FREDERICK 6.3 MI.  
GE 49 BALTIMORE 52 MI.



SURVEY NO. F-4-109

Farmstead. GROSSNICKLE FARM, TENANT HOUSE, G.W. SUMMERS FARM  
Frederick County MD OAKLAND MILLS

Photo by P. Reed, 4/95 (NEGATIVE LOCATION, PRESERVATION ASSOC INC.)

S view



SURVEY NO. F-4-109

House, GROSSWICKLE FARM, TENANT HOUSE, G.W. SUMMERS FARM

Fredrick County, MD

OAKLAND MILLS

photo by P. Reed 4/95 (NEGATIVE LOCATION, PRESERVATION ASSOC. INC.)

SE view



SURVEY NO. F-4-109

Stable,

GROSSVICKLE FARM, TENANT HOUSE

Fredrick County, MD

B.W. SUMMERS FARM

OAKLAND MILLS

photo by P. Reed 4/95

(NEGATIVE LOCATION, PRESERVATION ASSOC. INC)

SE View